

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A printing apparatus comprising:

at least one printing means for selectively forming an image on a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium  
5 that temporarily retains the image;

over-coating means for covering a surface of the recording medium formed thereupon with the image with a coating film; and

transfer means for transferring the image on the intermediate transfer medium to the recording medium, said over-  
10 coating means and said transfer means being arranged at a same position.

2. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said over-coating means and said second printing means arranged at  
15 the same position are composed of a same heating element.

3. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said heating element is a heat roller having an exothermic body.

20 4. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a supply spool shaft that is capable of mounting a first supply spool for supplying the intermediate transfer medium and a second supply spool for supplying the coating film, and a take-up spool shaft that is capable of mounting a first take-up spool  
25 for taking up the intermediate transfer medium and a second take-up spool for taking up the coating film, at least one of said supply spool shaft and said take-up spool shaft being a single spool shaft.

30 5. A printing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising

a platen opposingly arranged to the heating element for supporting the recording medium when the over-coating means covers the surface of the recording medium with the coating film and when the transfer means transfers the image.

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6. A printing apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising first drive means for rotatingly driving the take-up spool shaft, said first drive means rotatingly driving the first supply spool and/or the second supply spool.

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7. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first drive means is a motor capable of rotating both forward and in reverse.

15 8. A printing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising intermediate transfer medium transport means disposed in an intermediate transfer medium transport path between the first supply spool and the first take-up spool for transporting the intermediate transfer medium, and second drive means for  
20 rotatingly driving the intermediate transfer medium transport means.

9. A printing apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising measuring means disposed in the intermediate transfer medium  
25 transport path for measuring feeding and returning amounts of the intermediate transfer medium.

10. A printing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second drive means is a motor capable of rotating both forward  
30 and in reverse.